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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/576,355

05/01/2007

Yumi Hada

OJI-29-PCT/Minori

7185

156 7590 07/11/2008  
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EXAMINER

HESS, BRUCE H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1794

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/11/2008

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/576,355	<b>Applicant(s)</b> HADA ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Bruce H. Hess	<b>Art Unit</b> 1794	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 13-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>5-1-07 and 5-28--8</u> .                                      | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

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Claims 13-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over any of the patents to Seki et al. (USP 6,878,670; see the foreign Search Report submitted by applicants), Kishimi (JP 02-084382) or Yoshida (JP 2002-059653) in view of the patents to both Tytgat (USP 6,972,781; see the Abstract) and Tan et al. (USP 6,106,910; see the Abstract) alone or in combination with applicants' statement of the prior art.

The primary references teach the basic materials employed in applicants' claimed thermal recording sheet (i.e., a transparent substrate, a thermal recording layer and a protective layer). The secondary references teach useful modifications (i.e., curved corners in Tytgat and detection marks in Tan et al.) of thermal recording sheets. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art to employ these modifications for their respective concomitant functions (i.e., medical image reproduction and position sensing) in the thermal recording sheets of the primary references. The experimental modification of this prior art in order to ascertain optimum operating conditions (e.g., determine the curvature radius of the corners) fails to render applicants' claims patentable in the absence of unexpected results. While placement of the prior art thermal recording sheets in a protective container would have been an obvious expedient to one of ordinary skill in this art, applicants acknowledge in their specification that such containers are known in the art.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bruce H. Hess whose telephone number is

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(571)-272-1525. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday,  
8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the  
examiner's supervisor, Milton Cano can be reached on (571)-272-1398. The fax  
phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is  
assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from  
the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information  
for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public  
PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through  
Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR  
system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-  
free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service  
Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-  
9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Bruce H Hess  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1794

/Bruce H Hess/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794